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See Com 25X1
[Redacted]

OLC 75-0156

27 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman Lucien Nedzi, Intelligence Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee

1. Called Chairman Nedzi and talked with him about the Director's scheduled testimony before the Intelligence Subcommittee next Monday. I said it had been the Director's intention to give the same prepared statement before all the congressional committees. I said as he knew this statement has been released to the public and I wondered if this gave him any concern. He said it did not but he would want the Director to supplement his statement with comments about the legislation which Nedzi plans to introduce today or tomorrow. (I gather this will be substantially along the lines of the legislation Senator Stennis and Mr. Nedzi introduced in the 93rd Congress.) He said insofar as possible he wants to give this hearing a legislative rather than investigative twist.

2. Mr. Nedzi went on to say he wanted to alert me to the fact that he was having some second thoughts about a select committee. He said last week, when the Steering Committee considered the issue of a select committee, the Speaker appointed a seven-man committee to study the proposal. The Chairman said he is having an increasingly difficult time in defending against the select committee proposal since the jurisdiction of other committees is becoming involved, i.e., through inclusion of the FBI, Secret Service, etc. The Chairman went on to say if he could be assured of control and could establish the committee's inquiry as a broad theoretical overview of intelligence he would be inclined to go along with it. He said he thinks it is important to bring out in these hearings the difficulties of operating an intelligence organization in a democracy. People will then have to decide whether they want it or not. He said there are no quick or easy solutions to the problem.

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3. I told the Chairman his thinking along this line coincided with the Director's thoughts with respect to the establishment of a select committee in the Senate. I said he has tasked the intelligence community to pull together material for him along the very lines Mr. Nedzi has proposed. Mr. Nedzi said he thought such a statement should explain the coordination between agencies, the cost problems involved and the use to which information we acquire is put. He went on to say the problem is one of Executive oversight as well as congressional oversight. He emphasized again he wants to avoid headlines.

4. Finally, he said he is not at all certain as to how the scheduling of hearings will work out but we should for the moment still plan on coming up for 3 February. He noted he has a number of Subcommittee chairmen on his own Subcommittee and this is making it increasingly difficult for him to schedule hearings.

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He suggested we ask the departments concerned to see if they had any objection and I said we were in the process of doing that. I added we would probably talk with him further about this shortly.

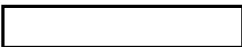
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